

A Just and Modest
VINDICATION
OF THE
Commissioners
For putting in Execution
The A C T
For Establishing of a
Land-Bank:

WHEREIN
The Objections against them are fully
Stated and Answered.

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A Just and Modest

VINDICATION

OF THE

Committee

for the purpose of

THE A. C. T.

for the purpose of

Land-Bank

1811

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A Just and Modest

Vindication, &c.

AMongst all the Methods and Contrivances (since the present War) to supply the Government, that none should prove ineffectual or useless, except the Fund given for establishing a Land-Bank, seems something strange when considered : For since we live in a Countrey seated under the best of Climates, productive of all the Necessaries of Life, whose Native Commodities are the Foundation of the greatest Trade and Commerce under Heaven, whereby numerous Families daily arrive at great and plentiful Fortunes : I say, for the Proprietors of such a *Canaan* as this, either not to know, or if known,

not to be able to establish their Interest must argue the greatest Stupidity, or the least Industry imaginable. And it is plain to any intelligent Man, how the extraordinary Interest of Money has been like a Gangreen to many Estates, and has reduced them to a very mean condition; and the difficulty of mortgaging Land is now so great, that besides the legal Profits, (if the Sum to be borrowed be considerable) the Lender must have a Present made him, before he will condescend to look at the Title. This was a melancholly prospect to Men of good Understanding and good Estates, and therefore it needed not remain a Mystery to so many, why the Parliament should be so fond of a Land-Bank, as to refuse this Fund to the Bank of *England*, and give it to them, since the former is the most beneficial thing to the Landed-man that ever was projected, and the other profitable only to a few Traders, who no doubt will

con-

confederate and unite their strength, to
 oppose any Contrivance which is like-
 ly to advance the Interest of the Land-
 ed-Man, and to lessen their own; for
 had the Land Bank succeeded, it's evi-
 dent that the Interest of Money must
 in a little time have been reduced to 3 l.
 per Cent. and Land consequently have
 risen in purchase proportionable to the
 fall of Money, which the monied and
 trading Men could not endure to think
 of, much less to have it brought about;
 for what could be more ungrateful,
 than the thoughts of consuming dou-
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 sed, will acquire but the same Estate
 of Inheritance, as what is gotten in
 half the time, at the rate as Land and
 Money goes at present: For now its
 every days experience, that a few years
 success in Trade, renders Monied-men
 Masters of so much Wealth, as enables
 them to purchase the most considera-
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least Industry imaginable. And it is plain

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 Masters of so much Wealth, as enables
 them to purchase the most considera-
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ble Estates in the Kingdom; so that wou
 at this rate in some few years, the Tra by g
 ders will invade the ancient Gentry vidin
 and take away their *Place and Na* sue
tion. These, and such like Conside 50
 rations, were the cause why the Land Ban
 Bank met so little Encouragement out
 and so strong opposition, for when the Mon
 Gentlemen of the House of Common of t
 would by no means be induced Ma
 lay aside a Proposition, so apparentl con
 advantageous to all Landed-men in the cels
 Kingdom, then an Exchequer-Ban into
 must be trump up, either to hinde out
 the other, or at least to protract time Ban
 which they could not fail of effecting wh
 and therefore they did not desist from sub
 pressing that forward, 'till it was twice inte
 cast out by a division of the House Pea
 and notwithstanding they were fir as
 beaten from their Out-works, yet the Co
 had a reserve still, hoping that if 50
 Bill passed in favour of a Land-Ban wo
 to tye a mill-stone about its Neck, tha nig
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would not fail of sinking it, which by great Industry was effected, by providing that the Exchequer might issue out their Bills immediately for 1500000 l. and for the rest, if the Bank did not raise it. What was this, but a dividing the Interest as well as the Money? and they who were so fond of the Bank under the Exchequer Management, would be very little concerned whether the other had success or not; and they who saw further into the mill-stone than others, gave it out in a modish whisper, that the Bank would never come to any thing, which discouraged hundreds from subscribing, which no doubt was the intent of the Parties. Another choak Pear was the requiring so vast a Sum as 1282000 l. before they could be a Corporation; for if the subscribing 500000 l. would have done, they would not have been obliged to ask high so large a Premium as they did,

which (by the way) was not so Extravagan-
 vant as their Enemies represented it to
 be, considering the scarcity of Money
 at that time, when most Men valued
 a mill'd Crown as if it had been
 an ancient Medal of one of their Ance-
 cestors; neither did they themselves
 (whatever they pretended,) think it
 since they were of Opinion, that had
 it been complied with, the Money
 could not have been raised; but
 is an easie matter to find a stick to
 beat a Dog. All Scruples, tho' new
 so dark and nice, must be laid
 of, and all the weak Sophistry
 were Masters of, must now be
 ed up to attack the Land-Bank; but
 that imprudent and unreasonable
 mand (as it was called) was not
 bold as welcome to some, who were
 glad of that or any other occasion
 deny the Land-Bank; and had the
 Demands been but a fifth part of
 they were, it's likely they would have
 been

been thought unreasonable, for even
 Mole-hill seemed a Mountain, and
 Money were lookt upon as such as in-
 tended to raise a Rebellion rather than
 Money : And it was something strange,
 to see such an indifferency to those who
 endeavoured to bring in such a Mass
 of Wealth, but it could not be the
 Money that was disliked, but the Me-
 thod of raising it ; for the grand De-
 bate was, Whether these Chimera's
 and Idols of Fancy, called E—
 Bills must do it or not, which at last
 resolved in the affirmative, 5 *l. per Cent.*
 for the first payment, which (by the
 way) is but 25 *s. per Cent.* for the
 whole Summ, is thought sufficient, and
 too spare, for such as shall subscribe
 their Money to the Land-Bank, (less
 then ever was offered when the base
 Money was currant, which People
 parted with without any consideration
 of the Security,) that one would think
 that Proposal was rather made by way
 of

of Mortification for their former extravagant Demands, then the utmost that could be afforded on such an Occasion. And it's Observable, when this gracious Offer would not bring forth one Penny, (as it was not like it should) the Commissioners were again sent for, and it was the Opinion of most that were present, that they heard the Questions proposed to them, and the Answer they gave, that there would be an Agreement, when as the Event shewed there was nothing less intended, and that they were sent for imagining them illiterate enough to make illegal Demands, as asking their Premium upon the Salt Fund, or to have Guineas taken at above 22 s. at last the gracious 5 l. per Cent. is again offered, with a *Neplus ultra* tacked to it, this Method served to get time, and was like throwing out a Barrel to a Whale to play with, whilst the Ship escapes; for by this dallying the Commissioners

sions were diverted from thinking
 any other means to raise the Money,
 which without doubt was the thing
 agreed by some. And I cannot omit
 the Question that was asked, and not
 being answered to their satisfaction,
 (as was pretended) was then alledged
 the reason they could not comply
 with our Proposals, and that was,
What Security we could give of raising the
whole Summ? a very pretty Question,
 and which would without doubt put
 the Rogues to a Non-plus, and ought
 to be answered Poet Bayes his way,
 after a little pausing and scratching
 ones Head, to say, *I gad I won't tell you;*
 for if they should have drawn out
 four or five of the stoutest Fellows
 amongst them, each worth 40 or
 50000 l. and sent for a Publick No-
 tary immediately, and went forthwith
 to *Noverint Universi*, it's ten to one they
 would not be satisfied, or thought the
 Security sufficient. I dare say they
 would

would not have taken the two Nave
 thern Crowns, nor any other brazen
 of Princes in *Europe* for Security: Noly b
 that cruel demand put them beyo very
 all hopes, and it was utterly impo, to
 ble to comply with this Demand, uice o
 less that Question had been put the
 time, that the *East-India* Compan only
 (who design'd to subscribe part of t ctio
 money) might have prevailed with t N
 Great Mogul to give Security to he f
 the Summ. guilt

But to come to the Justice of the
 Cause: It is Objected, That the Parlia
 ment having incorporated a Societ
 of Men, by the Name of the Gover
 nour and Company of the Bank is th
England, (mark the exclusive partic
 The) had debarred themselves of the
 Power of setting up another Ban
 and therefore after the Bank of *Eng*
 land had advanced their Money for
 the publick Good, (without any con
 sideration for their own Interest) and
 hav

Never ever since their Incorporation
 been so useful to the Government, not
 only by lending their own Money, but
 every Bodies else they could lay hands
 on, to erect another Bank in preju-
 dice of such a one, and upon the breach
 of the publick Faith too, must cer-
 tainly be an ungrateful and wicked
 action.

Now if this be a Crime, it is not
 the first that Parliaments have been
 guilty of in that nature, having serv-
 ed the Church of *England* the same
 manner before, which all People must
 allow was by Law establish'd, and
 was as much the Church of *England*
 as the other is the Bank of *England*,
 making the word *The* in its utmost la-
 titude: Neither can it be denyed, but
 that the Church of *England* has been
 as serviceable to the Government as
 the Bank, and is much better calcu-
 lated for so being, than this or any
 other Bank can possibly be.

And

And in truth, the Bank hath been rather serviceable to the Subjects than to the Government, for if we reflect on the Proceedings of the Bank for the last six Months, we must take care not to let the People to be in their Minority, and have chosen the Bank for their Guardians. It is well known that the desire of living above our Fortunes, has been an Epidemical Distemper among the People of this Kingdom, and especially to the Gentry: Now the cause of this Disease is totally owing to the Bank, for their Pious and Paternal Care ought never to be forgotten, in diligently inquiring into Mens Circumstances when they came for their Money, viz. *What family they had? what Children? what Servants? and what other Necessary Expences they were obliged to support, and supplied them not according to their own extravagant demands, but with what was convenient for the Necessaries, not*

the Luxury of Life. Now to do any thing against the interest of these our spiritual and Temporal Benefactors, must argue the highest ingratitude. But the Bank may be contented to run the same Fate with the Church, since it was as much the Intent of the Legislators to have but one Faith as one Bank.

But here it will be said by the Directors of the Bank, that although the Consequence of the Toleration will be setting up as many Churches as there are different Opinions amongst Mankind, yet the Directors of the Church of *England* put all other Churches under Contribution, and receive Tithes from all. To this may be said, that the Church have a Legal Right to Tithes, and can force people to pay them, which the Bank (to their Grief) have not, to force people to deposite their Money; but if the payments of Tithes had been as voluntary

luntary as putting Money into the Bank, it had been no more unlawful to establish a Toleration than is now.

But here perhaps they will Object that if the Church were really as used as the Bank, yet that is an Aggravation of the Crime rather than an Excuse, which is very true; but I deny that either have been so ill used or the publick Faith broke to either for nothing passes in an Act of Parliament, but what is given by express words, or something necessarily implied. I suppose the Bank does not pretend, that another Bank is excluded, by express words; and it is the most unreasonable thing in Nature to make the particle *The* such a Monitor, as to carry in its belly all the Cash in the Kingdom, and to be destructive to all future Corporations and Bodies Politick. But I dare be bold to affirm, that if the Parliament

had suspected this Particle to have imported but the 20th. part of what is by some suggested, they would have sent 100 Miles for a word rather than have used it; and therefore it can be no Crime, *in foro Conscientiæ*, to set up another Bank.

And tho' the Directors of the Bank of *England* were not blameable, for using all their Interest to hinder the Act from passing, yet when (notwithstanding all the opposition that could be made) the Act passed, and the King's Affairs, and the Affairs of all *Europe*, in a great measure depending upon the Success of it, then, I say, to appear so vigorously against it, and to strain so hard, as to bankrupt themselves, rather than the Land-Bank should rise, favoured rankly of Malice and Self-interest. Neither can the Directors of the Bank of *England* be taken by any intelligent Man, to be such Patriots as they would have the World suppose them to be; but

I will detain you no longer in the
Porch, but proceed to the Objec-
tions made against the Gentlemen that
proposed and prosecuted the Lanc
Bank.

First, That they undertook the rais-
ing 2564000 l. at 7 l. per Cent. per
petual Interest, redeemable by Parlia-
ment.

Secondly, That contrary to their first
Proposals, they insisted upon an Extra-
vagant Premium of 300000 l.

Thirdly, That they were not able
to raise the Money upon the Premium
they desired, nor could give any Se-
curity to do it.

Fourthly, That they ruined the Cre-
dit of the Bank of *England*.

I propose to answer these Objec-
tions, and then to shew,

First, That the Bank of *England*
through their Covetousness and want
of Understanding, ruin'd their own
Credit.

Secondly, If this Fund had been gi-
ven

ven either to the Bank of *England*, or the *Exchequer* alone, it could not have been so easily raised as by a Land-Bank.

Thirdly, That there is no way to restore Paper-Credit but by a New Bank.

The First Objection is, *That they undertook the raising of 2564000 l. at 7 l. per Cent. perpetual Interest.*

To this I *Answer*, That neither the Gentlemen concern'd in the Land-Bank, or any Person, or Body of Persons in *England*, did, or could undertake so great a Summ; but when Methods were propos'd in the House of Commons for raising this Money, they offer'd their Opinions, that it might be raised by a Land-Bank, and that 7 l. per Cent. was sufficient Encouragement, as the Treasury and Courtiers thought it might be best raised by an Exchequer-Bank, and others by different Methods; and if they were mistaken, (as I shall endeavour

to shew they were not) it is what the Treasury were in their Exchequer-bank, and what any one else in probability would have been, considering the different circumstances of the Kingdom when the Proposals were made, and when the Money was to be raised.

Second Objection. *That they insisted upon an extravagant Premium of 3000000*

To this I *Answer*, They were obliged to it.

1. By the Discouragement and Obstructions they met with in the House of Commons in the passing their *Bill*.

2. The Condition of the Kingdom in relation to Money and Credit was very different when the Proposals were made, and when the Money was to be raised, and therefore they were obliged to enlarge their Demands.

First, The Difficulties they met with in passing their *Bill* were these,

First. The Members of the Bank of *England* were excluded from subscribing.

Se.

Secondly, They were not to be Incorporated upon a less Summ than 1282000 l. by which Discouragement not one in ten would subscribe till they were assured of being a Corporation, esteeming that Priviledge to be half their bargain, and fearing the Subscriptions might not amount to that Summ ; whereas if the Subscribers had been qualified to be a Corporation upon the subscribing 500000 l. that Summ had been subscribed in three days by the Commissioners themselves, and the Members of *Exeter-Exchange* ; and if they had been once entituled to a Corporation, there could be no doubt but the whole Money would be subscribed afterwards, since it would be then a greater Encouragement to come in at *Parr*, than upon 20 *per Cent.* Premium before.

Thirdly, When they offered a Clause to their Act, to naturalize such as would subscribe 500 l. and had reasonable Assurance from the Forreigners upon

the Exchange, that such encouragement would bring in 400000 l. that clause was thrown out by some Gentle-men that they could not suspect would be Enemies to a Naturalization, and probably had not been so if it had been offered upon any other Occasion than to assist the Land-Bank. Jack

Fourthly, Their Bill was delayed so long, by the opposition it found, that they could not get their Commission passed to before the 4th. of May, by which means it was left in the power of the Treasury to refuse or take the fourth part of their Subscriptions in clipped Money, which was a particular hardship upon a great number of People, who avoided putting in their clipped Money upon it other Funds, in hopes of subscribing it, and making their first payments with it in this Bank; and reasonably hoped since they paid to the recompence, to have their clipped Money made good to them as well as to others. ec

And I believe it has been every

ones

ones Observation, that several Gentle-
men of the Bank of *England*, and others,
le-Opposers of the Land-Bank, would
uld often insult over them upon their Suc-
ndcess in the House of Commons, and
adask them what was become of
si-their Bank, tho' now they call them
Jacobites, and threaten to impeach
sothem, for not doing what they them-
eyselfes rendered impossible for them
edto do.

ns The second Reason I gave, was,
ea-the different Circumstances of the
art Kingdom when the Proposals were
ey, made, and when the Money was to
on be raised : As,

d- 1. Guineas were taken at 30 s. and
on it was not known whether the Parli-
it, ament would bring them down or no.

th 2. Paper-Credit was good, and the
ed Bank of *England* and the Goldsmiths
to paid their Bills punctually, whereas
to at the time this Money was to be rais-
ed, both refused.

ry 3. Tallies were equal, or better
nes B 4 than

than Money, whereas afterwards the wou
 were 20, 30, and 40 *per Cent.* Discoun
 by which means People could make Mo
 a much greater advantage of their Mo
 ney, and therefore would not subscrib
 it upon the same terms as they thought
 before reasonable.

4. It was hoped at first not above
 60 *per Cent.* would be called in, where
 as afterwards by the Universal Fal
 of Credit, and want of Money, n
 one thought of paying less than the
 whole Summe subscribed.

5. There was an actual want o
 Money in Specie in the Kingdom
 seven Millions in and out of the Ex
 chequer being rendered useless, by
 which means the Commissioners saw
 it impossible to get the Money sub
 scribed, and paid in Specie, and there
 fore designed to take Tallies, good
 Goldsmiths Bills, and Bank Bills, and
 clipt Money by weight at a high
 rate for Subscriptions, and so asked
 300000 *l.* Præmium, believing it
 would

the would cost them full as much to Dis-
count the several Species aforesaid for
Money, which they propos'd to pay
to the King.

It is to be Observed here, (1.) If the
300000 l. desired had been granted
to the Land-Bank, their bargain had
not been so great as the Bank of *En-
gland's*; for the Bank of *England* having
100000 l. *per Ann.* for 1200000 l.
they gave but 12 years purchase for
their Fund; besides, they had allow-
ed them 4000 l. *per Ann.* for their Char-
ges: Whereas, if 300000 l. had been
deducted out of this Fund, the remain-
der had been 2264000 l. which di-
vided by 179000, the Interest they
were to receive makes near 13 years
purchase; and I believe the scarceness
and goodness of Money considered,
When the Bank of *England* was raised,
and when the Land-Bank was to be
raised, any one but themselves will
believe that the latter deserved at least
equal Encouragement; and its pro-
bable

bable the Parliament would have given it, if they had foreseen the Difficulties that have since happened.

2. That the Commissioners did not ask the 300000 l. out of the Sale Fund, but upon the Exchequer in general, which could not be paid there but by the Consent of the Parliament and so they left themselves to the Parliament whether they deserved it or no.

3. At the time they asked those Tallies on the Exchequer in general it would have cost 40 l. per Cent. to discount them, which reduced their Demands to less than 200000 l.

4. If their Terms had been complied with, the greatest part of their Subscriptions would have been made in clipped Money and Plate, which would have been coined to increase our Species of Money, and it's probable would save the Nation next year near as much in the recompence for clipped Money, and Encouragement for

bringing in the Plate, as the Summ
manded.

5. The Exchequer has not borrow-
any Money so cheap since.

The Third Objection. *That they were
able to raise the Money upon the Pre-
mium they asked, nor could they give any
security to do it.*

This Objection justifies them in
asking the Premium refused ; for it is
very unjust to tax them for asking
so much, and yet to confess it was
not enough to induce people to sub-
scribe the Money. However, I offer
these Reasons that it would be sub-
scribed.

1. They Proposed they might open
their Books for Private Subscriptions,
not doubting within three dayes they
might bring Hands for near the summe
to be raised, which was not thought fit
to be granted to them, it being Object-
ed, it would be a Disencouragement to
the real Subscriptions.

2. When they were sent for to at-
tend

tend the Lords Justices, and were asked, *What Security they could give of raising the whole Summe?* They Answered That they computed the Commissioners themselves, and the Members of Exeter-Exchange, would subscribe 700000 l. which they believed they should be able to bring as much more by their Interest and Acquaintance, and they thought it reasonable to suppose the whole Kingdom would subscribe the rest.

3. That they thought the Nation as of the thing would admit of no other Security than what they offered, since it could not be expected that any number of Persons would enter into Recognizances to raise the Summ. which

4. It was solely to their Disadvantage, if they did not subscribe to the Corporation, since by the failure thereof they would only entitle themselves to 700000 l. Cent. in the Exchequer, which no one would give 70 l. for, and therefore it is to be presumed they would take such care for their own sakes, as not to

re a lose 30 per Cent. of their Money ;
of which if they did not, it would solely
werdound to the advantage of the Pro-
s thectors of the Exchequer-Bank, who
er-ould have the Money that was sub-
l.ribed to circulate their own Bills.

bring 5. When they became a Corpora-
'equon, it cannot be doubted but the
to whole Money would be quickly sub-
ribecribed, since then the advantage of
ubscribing would be much greater,
Nat as I said before) and it was not in
o the power of the Commissioners to
finder any one from subscribing that
nought it his Interest ; but admitting
o the Subscriptions would have stopt
when they were qualified to be a Cor-
poration, I believe most People are of
o opinion now, that 1282000 l. would
e the better serve his Majesties occasions,
o 7 than nothing, though the Arithmetick
o of that time was, that half was less
refor than none.

l tal The Fourth Objection is, *That they*
as nain'd the Credit of the Bank of England ;
and

and here these worthy Patriots must
bold with the Parliament, and say, that
broke their Faith with them, in setting
up another Bank. *I Answer,*

1. There are no words in the
of Parliament, that directly or in-
directly exclude the Parliament from
setting up another Bank: The Act of
incorporates a Body of Men to sue
be sued, which if it should amount
to a prohibitory Clause, excludes King
and Parliament ever hereafter to grant
a Corporation, since every Corpo-
ration, single person, or number of per-
sons in *England*, may lawfully do what
these Gentlemen pretend to have a
Monopoly of.

2. The Land-Bank was excluded
from discounting Bills of Exchange
lending Money upon Pawns, dealing
in Bullion, &c. and every thing else
but lending upon Land, and to the
Government, and therefore could pos-
sibly be no disadvantage to the Bank
of *England*, who do not pretend to lend
upon Land.

3. If the other Bank had taken effect, it's probable the Bank of *England* would have had more Cash left with them than before, since it would have been the Interest of both Banks to have agreed, and then without doubt they might have divided the Goldsmiths profits between them, and so each Bank have more Deposites than the Bank of *England* had before.

4. If the setting up a Land-Bank would be a Disadvantage to the Bank of *England*, it was no injustice to establish them, since the Parliament gave no Warrant to the contrary, and their bargain was great enough notwithstanding; and greater than they thought was fit to be granted to the Land-Bank, who were to raise more than double the Summ, in less time, when the Difficulties were greater, and the Coin better; they had but 7 *l.* per Cent. excluded from many Advantages the Bank of *England* had, and were obliged besides to lend 500000 *l.* per Annum,

num, at 3 l. 10 s. 0 d. per Cent. Interest

5. If the establishing the Land-Bank did encrease the Demands upon the Bank of *England*, it was caused by the unreasonable opposition they gave to it, which failing of the Effect they proposed, gave them that Disreputation that always attends those that are overcome, for the World has no reason to believe they understood their own Interest best; and when they seemed to wind up their whole happiness by defeating the Land-Bank, and miscarried, it is not to be wondered if other People thought their Condition to be worse then it was.

That the Covetousness and want of Understanding of the Bank of *England* was the Occasion of their loss of Credit; To prove which I shall shew,

1. That they left undone those things which they ought to do.

2. They have done those things which they ought not to do.

1. To the first, They ought to have foreseen

foreseen, that after the 4th. of *May* the Demands upon them would be greater than before, for admitting the World had as good an Opinion of their Credit as ever, yet the necessity of People must call upon them for Money, for the whole Silver Species of *England* being sunk in a day, they might be assured all People would want Money for their ordinary occasions; and whatever opinion they had of their Security, would call for it when they had demands, and therefore they ought to have made Provisions to answer them.

2. They should have called in as many of their Bills as they could, whereas they issued out Bills till the 4th. of *May*, and how many since they stopt their payments is best known to themselves.

3. They might have bought Guineas for Tallies and clipt Money, when Tallies were *par*, and clipt Money current, and Guineas playing between 22 s.

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and

and 24 s. which they were three Weeks or a Month.

4. They might have called in the 40 l. per Cent. either before, or immediately after the 4th. of May, and not kept Money in their Pockets, which they owed to other people.

5. When they could not pay their Demands, they might have allowed the difference which their Creditors gave to discount their Bills, since it is more reason the Debtor should pay it than the Creditor.

6. They might have allowed the Interest they received, or at least Legal Interest, when they were not able to pay the Principal.

To the last they Object, That they offered Tallies to any that demanded them which was the Security they had. I Answer,

1. It lyes upon them to prove, they ever offered any Tallies payable within three Months, but only such as it was worth 30 l. per Cent. to discount.

2. If they had offered such Tallies, had not been sufficient, since their Creditors did not trust the Exchequer, but them, and expected their Money upon demand, as the Bank is liable by Law to pay it, or otherwise they would rather have put their Money into the Exchequer for Tallies themselves, and have receiv'd the Interest from the beginning, than let the Bank receive the Interest of their Money till they call for it, and then give them but part of that Security which they might have had at first, and upon such Funds as the Bank thought fit to spare, whereas themselves might have chosen their own Funds.

If these Methods would not have fully answered their Creditors, at least it would have given them the Characters of honest Men, and of doing all that they were able to do.

Next I am to prove the Bank of *England* have done those things which they ought not to do.

1. They extended their Credit beyond 1200000 *l.* and by that means run in debt more than they were able to pay, whereas it is very evident that the Act of Parliament designed to confine their Credit to 1200000 *l.* which the Fund was answerable for, by obliging them not to issue out a greater Sum upon it; not imagining that they would evade the Act, by issuing out Notes which bound not themselves, nor was any ways Security to those that accepted them. For it is not to be conceived that the Parliament designed they should borrow any Money, but what they could give Security for, and not under the shelter of an Act of Parliament deceive innocent People, who do not know a Corporation is not bound, but under their Common-Seal.

2. When they had thus evaded the Act, and were afraid to be called to account by the next Parliament, to sweeten the Contrey-Gentlemen they promised to lend Money upon Land,

to any one that offered them good Security, which I hope they have more modesty then to say they have performed, and by that means have justly raised the indignation of the Nobility, and Gentry against them, who hoped to be eased from the Extortion of Scriveners and Usurers.

3. They undertook a foolish Bargain, to return Money for *Flanders*, by which they have lost a Summ best known to themselves, whereas it might have done better by the Merchants, whose Business it was, and who understood it better. They alledge, they did it to serve the Government, but I think it will be hard to satisfie the World, that they were contented to lose 80000 l. to save the King 20000 l. and therefore it will be rather accounted their Folly than Zeal.

4. Within few days before the 4th. of May, they gave Bills payable upon demand for clipt Money, whereas it is probable, the same persons would have

have been contented to have taken them payable six Months after, or else they need not have given them at all.

5. By their unreasonable Opposition on they gave to the Land-Bank, they rendered the raising of the Summ proposed ineffectual, and consequently disabled themselves, by not receiving much Money as was appropriated to their own use out of that Fund.

6. *Qⁿ*. Whether they did not address themselves to the Treasury, to have their Bills refused in the Customs? so, it was a great diminution to the Credit.

7. To finish their ruine, they lent 200000 *l.* to the King, when they paid but 5 *l.* per Cent. of their Debt, and some say to hinder the Land-Bank Proposals from being accepted.

Here I am aware I shall be answered, that they did it out of Zeal to his Majesty, and to serve the Government; this they think will justify all their Miscarriages, and protect them from acting

acting against the Rules of Justice and
 prudence, therefore it ought to be exa-
 mined. They have served the Go-
 vernment, I grant it, but it was to serve
 themselves; a Miser would be as good
 Friend; they have lent the Govern-
 ment Money, but upon as great Inte-
 rest as the Parliament allowed, and
 greater than they could get elsewhere.

They have lent other Peoples Mo-
 ney, and not their own, and at the
 same time refuse to pay those to whom
 it belongs; whereas if their Zeal for
 the Government had been as great as
 they pretended, they would have rais-
 ed Money in their private Capacities,
 and so lent what was their own, or
 at least given their Creditors the In-
 terest they receiv'd, but instead of that
 they keep part of their principal Mo-
 ney in their hands, and what they
 have already called in for they pay
 6 l. per Cent. to themselves, though they
 deny it to their Creditors.

I will put them two Questions.

1. If

1. If a Man robs another of his Money, and lends it to the Government, will it justifie this Robbery?

2. Whether detaining a Mans Money from him, and lending it at Interest without giving the Interest receiv'd, be *not in foro Conscientie* as bad as taking it from him?

I believe if the Scene were changed from *Grocers-Hall* to *Lumbard-street*, we shall all be of an Opinion.

I leave with a Goldsmith 1000 *l.* he gives me his Note payable upon demand, I go to him six Months hence and ask him for my Money, he tells me the Government was in great distress, and he lent them my Money; I tell him I gave him no such Commission, but finding my self remediless, I ask him to allow me the Interest he receives, he refuses it; I then ask him to give me his Bond, and Legal Interest, he refuses that; I fancy if I should pull him by the Nose, I should be justified by most of those Gentlemen that

are

Measure of another Opinion, in the case
of the Bank of *England*.

The next thing I have to prove, is,
that if this had been given to the Ex-
chequer alone; or to the Bank of *Eng-
land*, it would not have been so easily
raised as by a Land-Bank: And first
for an Exchequer-Bank.

1. The Projectors themselves propose
400000 *l.* always to lye still to cir-
culate their Bills, (which is to be used
to no other purpose whatsoever) which
must be wanting upon the Salt-Fund,
to answer His Majesties Occasions, or
else must be raised upon another ; and
so 400000 *l.* must be raised extra-
ordinary, whereas the Land-Bank ask-
ed but three.

2. If the Demands upon the Exche-
quer should exceed the 400000 *l.*
which it's likely they would, (every
Body knowing their Stock) the Ex-
chequer will be broke, and the Cre-
dit of the Government sunk ; whereas
the Land-Bank may be able to answer

D

all

all their Bills ; or if they should not, the Government will suffer no discredit by it.

3. If the Exchequer should refuse Payment, the Creditor has no remedy, but upon 7 *l. per Cent.* which he will not value at 70 *l.* whereas if the Bank should refuse Payment, he would have Remedy for his whole Money.

Note, If the Exchequer-Bank should have Credit, Interest upon Land must be at 8 or 10 *per Cent.* For it is not to be imagined any one will lend upon Land at the usual Interest, when he can have it upon demand, with 4 *l.* 10 *s.* running Interest ; and therefore such a Bank can't be of as great Advantage as a Bank that would raise the Land, and lessen the Interest of Money ; for an Exchequer-Bank can be of no use to any one, but such as have the management of the 400000 *l.* which may be made use of to lend his Majesty upon Funds, and to circulate the Teller Notes, which some say has been

common practice, since they have set up the Trade of Banking.

2. That the Bank of *England* could not raise this Summ as well as the Land-Bank; to illustrate which it must be examined, which way they could propose to raise it, and that must be, either

1. By issuing out Bills upon their Credit.

2. Or by opening their Books for New Subscriptions.

As to the first : I suppose they will not pretend to say, that issuing out two Millions and a half of Bills more, payable upon demand, will enable them the better to answer those that are already out; and if they open their Books for New Subscriptions, they must let the New Subscribers come in at *Par*, with their Original Stock or not; and it is not likely they will do the former, since by the passing a Bill in their Favour, their Original 160 l. would be worth 150 l. and the letting New Sub-

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scriptions

scriptions come in upon equal terms. They must reduce their stock to its Original Value; for no Man will buy it at more, if he can subscribe at *Par*; and if they open their Books for Subscriptions, according to the Improved Value, no one but would rather subscribe his Money to a New Fund, where he may come in upon equal terms, than to adjoin a real value with an imaginary one.

3. But admitting they would have so much Self-denial to accept Subscriptions at *par*, yet by the Money they raise they must pay their Bills that are out already, as well as the 2564000 lb. whereas the Land-Bank are to pay no more than they receive.

4. Most People would rather subscribe to a New Bank, than one that has lost its Credit.

Therefore I infer, if it could not be raised by a Land-Bank, it could not be raised by this Fund.

The next thing I have to shew, is
That

That there is no way to restore Pa-
per-Credit but by a New Bank.

I shall take it for granted, that Pa-
per will never go for Money, but
when I can have Money for it upon
Demand; for no Man will part with
ready Money for a Note, or take a
Note for Money upon any other Con-
sideration, and therefore Paper can ne-
ver be restored, unless the Bank of Eng-
land and Goldsmiths pay their Notes, or
else another Fund is set up that can.

1. The Bank of England if they
were disposed to pay their Debts, can-
not possibly do it; their Money as it
became due from the Exchequer, is
not enough to answer 5 *per Cent.* of
their Debts, and they can never have
any Credit till they can answer all De-
mands, which must require greater
Summs then they have, or can possi-
bly get.

2. If they had Money enough to
answer all Demands, it is probable it
would be all called from them; for
Tha
Repu-

Reputation is so nice a thing, that it's once blown upon, 'tis rarely recovered, especially in a matter that nearly concerns us, as parting with Money; for it will be a hard matter to induce me to trust one, that through Indiscretion or Design has deceived me.

3. It cannot be imagined that any one will bring in Money to be deposited with them, for that is to pay 100 l. and get 5 l. with a great trouble when I want it again.

4. The giving them a New Fund is enabling them to cheat more People for by the Monies that rise upon the Fund, they must not only purchase the Fund, but answer the Bills that are out before; and if their Creditors should not be so good natur'd to stop their Demands, they must their Payments As to the Goldsmiths reviving Credit, I suppose no Man expects Reformation from them, or that any thing will make them honest but a Cata-

hat Pole : And of the Exchequer-Credit
 we have had an Essay already, which
 with what I have said of it before, is
 sufficient, therefore I argue, that Paper
 Credit can be restored by no other
 means, than by a New Bank, and
 settling a Fresh Fund of Credit.
